

# Preface

The 7th International Conference on Wireless and Satellite Systems (WiSATS) was held at the Norcroft Centre at the University of Bradford, Bradford, UK, during July 6–7, 2015.

This conference was formerly known as Personal Satellite Services (PSATS) and catered mainly for research in the satellite domain. Recent technological advances in both wireless and satellite communications have made it possible to bring value-added services directly to the user by reducing the overall cost as well as addressing many technological challenges such as achieving seamless mobility, security, having miniaturized antennas and terminal sizes, and providing high data rate links. The synergy between satellite and terrestrial wireless networks provides immense opportunities for disseminating wideband multimedia services to a wide range of audiences over large numbers of geographically dispersed people. The services enabled by wireless and satellite systems not only cover the requirements of an ordinary citizen but also have applications in various areas such as defence, vehicular field, health, etc. Therefore the scope of the conference has been widened to cover wireless systems too. And WiSATS was born! The two-day event explored such techniques and provided a platform for discussion between academic and industrial researchers, practitioners, and students interested in future techniques relating to wireless and satellite communications, networking, technology, systems, and applications.

WiSATS 2015 boasted two outstanding keynote speakers. We were fortunate to have Prof. David Koilpillai, Dean (Planning) of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India, and Dr. Sastri Kota, President Sohun Consultants, USA, as our keynote speakers. The keynote speakers set the tone of the topic during the two days of the conference with one focusing on the next-generation 5G wireless communications and the other focusing on the emerging areas of satellite communications.

WiSATS 2015 included two workshops along with the main conference. The first workshop, Communication Applications in Smart Grid (CASG 2015), focused on the merging area of using communication technology within the electricity power grid for smart monitoring and control. It had six papers and two invited talks. The second workshop, Advanced Next-Generation Broadband Satellite Systems (BSS 2015), focused on the use of satellite systems for providing next-generation broadband services. This workshop had six accepted papers from eminent experts in the area.

WiSATS 2015 included three technical sessions consisting of 18 high-quality regular papers and one special session on network coding for satellite communications that had five papers. WiSATS 2015 also included a panel discussion session on “Future Maritime VHF Digital Exchange System (VDES): A Combined Terrestrial and Satcom System.” This panel brought together experts involved in the VDES standardization activities worldwide for presentations and discussion on the current situation, the challenges, sharing options for the VDE terrestrial and satellite components, the user and regulative needs, and viewpoints on this new digital maritime communications.

The conference had close to 60 participants both from industrial and academic sectors from various parts of the world including India, France, Germany, Greece, UK, The Netherlands, and Italy. The conference provided tea and coffee breaks as well as lunch at the Norcroft Centre for all the participants throughout the conference. A gala dinner event was also organized on the first day of the conference at the National Media Museum in Bradford. The quality of the venue, services provided by the center's staff, and especially the quality of the food and drinks were all highly spoken about during the conference by the participants and the Organizing Committee.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the Organizing Committee members, session chairs, Technical Program Committee members, all the authors and speakers for their technical contributions, and the attendees for their participation. Also on behalf of the Organizing Committee and the Steering Committee of WiSATS, we would like to thank our sponsors, the University of Bradford, CREATE-NET, and EAI for their generous financial support and their extended support in making this event a successful one.

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Prashant Pillai  
Yim Fun Hu  
Ifiok Otung  
Giovanni Giambene

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